

# OPTIONS KEY STAGE 4 2025



## KING EDWARD VI LORDSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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*Educational excellence for our City*

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## KING EDWARD VI LORDSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Dear Parent/Carers

During year 9 all students are given the opportunity to make a number of choices regarding the subjects and types of courses they wish to study in year 10 and 11. We aim to provide your daughter with information and advice to help support her in making her choices for her Key Stage 4 programme of study. At Key Stage 4, your daughter will follow a broad and balanced core curriculum that, even without any option choices, offers many opportunities for further progression beyond year 11. Studying the EBacc equips your daughter with the broad knowledge that employers and higher education institutions are looking for ([Help your child make the best GCSE choices](#)). In order for students to achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure, they must follow a pathway enabling them to gain qualifications in English Language, English Literature, mathematics, science, geography or history and a foreign language at the end of their GCSE studies. As a result, our core curriculum, which all students follow, consist of the following subjects:

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science (\*option of separate science available)

GCSE French or Spanish

GCSE Geography or History

GCSE Religious Studies

Physical Education (Non -qualification)

PSHCE (Non -qualification)

To support your daughter with her decisions we have produced a student options booklet. The booklet includes information on the courses being offered and the course content. We encourage you to look at this booklet with your daughters to help them in making their decisions. When choosing options it is important that your daughter considers her strengths, areas of interest, careers aspirations and progression to post 16 study.

We endeavour to provide your daughter with her first choices. Please be aware, however, if there is not sufficient interest in a subject the unfortunately it might not be possible to run the course. It is essential that your daughter chooses her reserve courses carefully as once options are confirmed they will not be changed. Your daughter's option choices form needs to be completed and received no later than **Friday 7th February 2025**.

If you do require any further information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Loveena Verma

Assistant Headteacher (Assessment, Data & Outcomes)



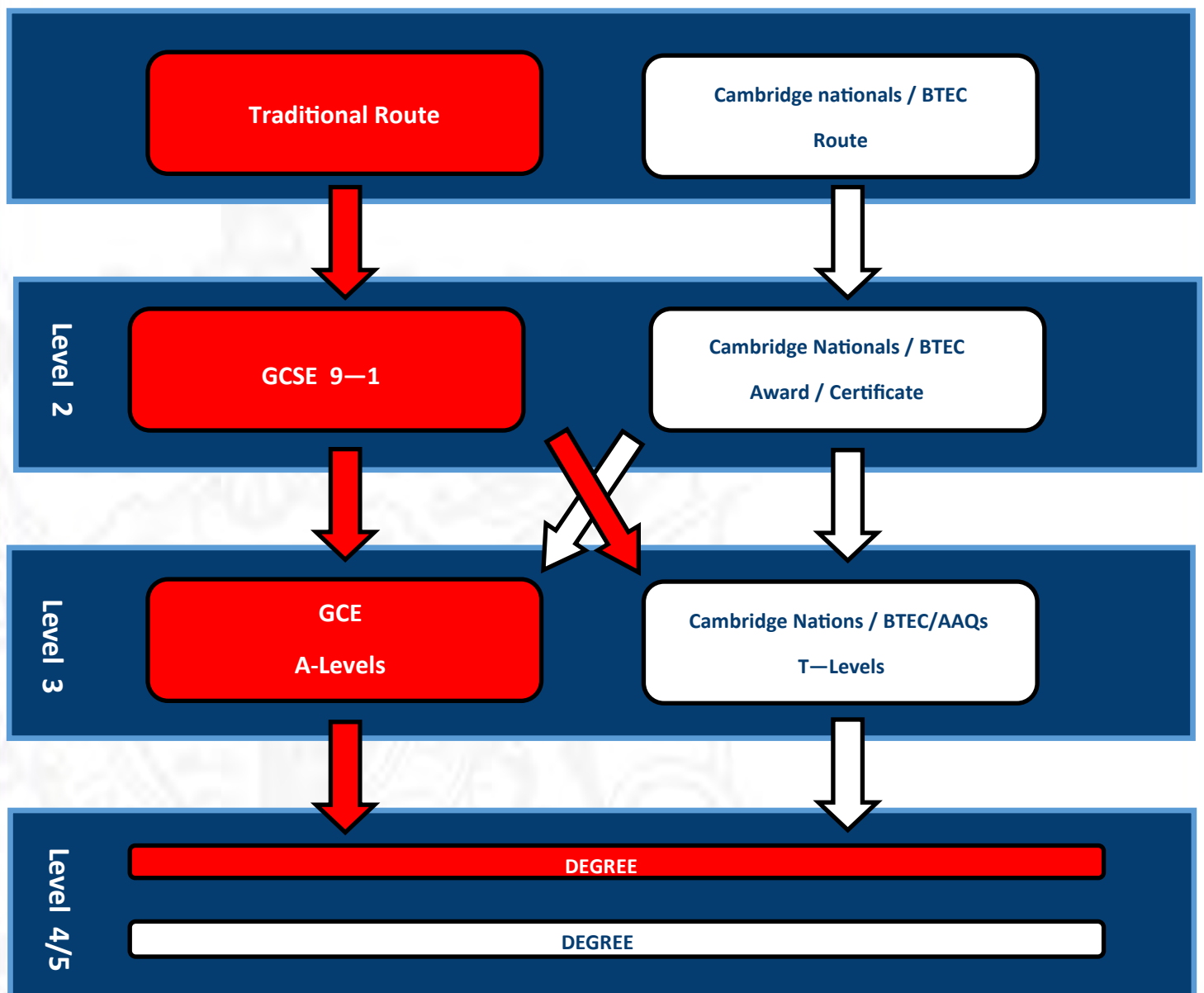
# KING EDWARD VI LORDSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

## Curriculum, qualifications and progression

All GCSEs will be assessed at the end of the two year course, in the May and June examination period. There may be an opportunity for some aspects of the GCSE equivalent courses to be examined at dates earlier than this, depending on the examination board. GCSE subjects are graded on a scale of 1 to 9, where 9 is the highest grade. Grade 5 is slightly above the performance of the old grade C.

BTEC/Cambridge nationals are equivalent to one GCSE and are graded distinction\* to pass at level 2. Students not achieving the level 2 criteria can be graded at level 1 distinction to pass. All vocational options will have at least 20% of the course externally assessed. Both GCSEs and vocational courses can be used as a prerequisite to A levels and other level 3 qualifications.

## 14—19 Qualifications and progression pathways





## **KING EDWARD VI LORDSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

### **CORE SUBJECTS**

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science
- GCSE French or Spanish
- GCSE Geography or History
- GCSE Religious Studies
- Physical Education (Non - qualification)
- PSHCE (Non - qualification)

### **OPTION SUBJECTS**

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Citizenship Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Creative iMedia
- GCSE Drama
- Health and Social Care BTEC Award
- Hospitality and Catering Level 2 Award
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Separate Science



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# **CORE SUBJECTS**



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# English Language

**What is the qualification?** English Language GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (AQA)

**What will I be doing on the course?**

For GCSE English Language, you will sit two examinations: Paper 1 requires you to read and answer questions on extracts from twentieth and twenty-first century fiction, before producing a piece of your own creative (descriptive or narrative) writing.

Paper 2 assesses how well you are able to identify viewpoints in one twenty-first century and one nineteenth century non-fiction source, before testing your ability to write to present your own point of view on a particular topic.

**Assessment**

The course is assessed by 100% terminal examination at the end of Year 11. There are two examinations, both of which are closed book.

**What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You will need to plan and write essays independently, in timed conditions, using relevant and precisely selected textual detail to support your views. You will need to explore how different writers use form, structure and language to create meaning. You will need to read a wide range of texts from different historical periods and of different genres. You will need to shape your own informed interpretations of literary texts and consider the messages writers wish to communicate. You will need to write both analytically and comparatively, exploring the similarities and differences between literary texts of both the same and different genres.

**What could I use this qualification for?**

GCSE English Language is an essential qualification and is often required (at a minimum 5/4 grade) to study many further education courses offered at post-16.

Every area requires English skills, however some possible career pathways include journalism, writer, paralegal, copywriter, teacher, radio and TV presenter.



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# English Literature

**What is the qualification?** English Literature GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (AQA)

**What will I be doing on the course?**

For GCSE English Literature, there are two examinations, with Paper 1 testing your understanding of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and Brontë's 'Jane Eyre'.

Paper 2 assesses your ability to analyse Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' and compare two of the studied 'Power and Conflict' poems. On this second paper, you will also have to analyse an unseen poem, as well as commenting on similarities and differences between it and a second unfamiliar piece of poetry.

**Spoken Language (speaking and listening)**

This component does not count towards the overall GCSE grade. A separate endorsement/certificate will be awarded. It is covered through one presentation and subsequent discussion.

**Assessment**

The course is assessed by 100% terminal examination at the end of Year 11. There are two examinations.

**What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You will need to develop your ability to write in different genres for a range of different audiences and purposes. You will need to be able to identify relevant supporting textual detail and language and structural devices as well as analyse texts and writers' language choices in depth. You must be able to comment on the effects at word, sentence and text level. You will need to work both independently and in groups to plan, discuss and present ideas orally.

**What could I use this qualification for?**

GCSE English Literature provides excellent preparation for a range of subjects at A level that require essay writing as well as comparative and analytical skills. GCSE English Literature nurtures the skills required particularly in the humanities and the social sciences. Careers in this subject could include poet, lawyer, publishing editor, campaigners, editors and novelist.

Every area requires English skills, but some possible career pathways include journalism, film, marketing, freelance writing, law, copywriting, teaching, broadcasting and publishing.





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# Mathematics

**What is the qualification?** Mathematics GCSE Higher tier grade 9 – 4 (Edexcel)

Foundation tier grades 5 – 1 (OCR)

**What will I be doing on the course?**

The mathematics department follows a linear GCSE course.

The scheme of work is organised into distinct topics to allow you to develop mathematical fluency in all areas of maths, but teaching will make connections between these topics to aid the development of mathematical reasoning and problem solving. The sequencing of the topics follows a sensible and logical order to ensure you have the prerequisite skills to build upon prior knowledge at each stage of your learning. The prerequisite skills and connected topics will be referred to by teachers, and shared with you at all opportunities.

**What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You need to be able to problem solve, communicate effectively using numbers and symbols, explain and justify solutions and have the ability to interpret and discuss data

**Assessment**

The course is assessed by 100% terminal examination at the end of Year 11. There are three papers, all of which are 1hr 30mins.

**What could I use this qualification for?**

GCSE Mathematics provides you with improved opportunities for further education, training and employment. A good qualification in mathematics is necessary for most careers such as accountancy, architecture, financial services, underwriter, risk analyst and media analyst. It is essential for further study in many subjects for example psychology, biology, chemistry and physics.

**Additional information**

Provision is made to take stand alone Level 3 qualifications and/or further maths for students that are identified as excelling in the subject .



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# Combined Science

**What is the qualification?** The combined science qualification is worth two GCSEs, consisting of two equal or adjacent grades from 9-9 to 1-1 (AQA)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

Studying combined science at GCSE will build on your knowledge and understanding of KS3 science to provide the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity.

During this course you will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science, with an emphasis on each of the three different sciences; biology, chemistry and physics.

To support and consolidate your understanding of scientific concepts, you will also complete practical work. This will also serve to develop your investigative science skills and handling of specialist science equipment to take measurements.

## **Assessment**

At the end of Year 11 you will sit six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will test your knowledge and scientific understanding, and include questions related to the practical activities that you have completed.

Each paper is worth 70 marks and 1 hour 15 minutes in length. Examination papers will have a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

## **What skills do I need to be develop to be successful at this course?**

To be successful in science you need to be able to apply your knowledge to new situations. You need to have the ability to draw conclusions from data, and use the information to explain scientific theory. You should be confident in using a range of practical and mathematical techniques. This will also enable you to understand the nature, processes and, methods of science through different scientific enquires enabling you to develop you observational, practical, modelling, enquiry, and problem solving skills. You must have good mathematical skills and an ability to analyse and evaluate data and draw accurate conclusions. You will need to be able to apply your knowledge to novel situations.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

A GCSE in science can open many doors. You may choose to continue to study for A levels in science, psychology or opt for the BTEC Level 3 in Medical biology. Many universities and employers are keen for you to have good science grades as it shows you are an analytical and logical thinker. You could use this qualification to study any of the sciences at A level. Good GCSE science grades are essential for many university courses. Careers include medicine, dentistry, lab technician, engineering, toxicologist, forensic scientist, academic researcher, software engineer.



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# French

**What is the qualification?** French GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (Edexcel)

### What will I be doing on the course?

You will build upon prior grammatical knowledge whilst regularly revisiting tenses and other key grammatical points in new contexts to ensure knowledge is secure. At key stage 4, the course is split up into the following six themes: My personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future and travel and tourism.

### Assessment

At the end of Year 11, you will sit the following four examinations:

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 45 minutes including 5 minutes reading time
- Higher tier: 1 hour including 5 minutes reading time.

Paper 2: Speaking in French (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 7–9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time
- Higher tier: 10–12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time.

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 45 minutes
- Higher tier: 1 hour

Paper 4: Writing in French (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes.

### What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?

In order to be successful in this course you will need to develop your level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. In addition, you will need to develop the following transferable skills:

Cognitive skills - Systems thinking, decision making and reasoning.

Critical thinking - analysing, synthesising and reasoning skills.

Interpersonal skills - Communication, active listening, oral communication, written communication, assertive communication and non-verbal communication.

Adaptability – ability and willingness to cope with the unpredictable and communication styles and cultures.

Self-management and self-development – ability to work autonomously, be self-motivating and self-monitoring, willing and able to acquire new information and skills.

### What could I use this qualification for?

In recent years, higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

Entrance to many further education institutions is often dependent on students possessing a GCSE in a MFL. There are a wide range of careers on offer to those who have studied languages from teaching, journalism and business to politics, accounting and law.



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# Spanish

**What is the qualification?** Spanish GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1. (Edexcel)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

You will build upon prior grammatical knowledge whilst regularly revisiting tenses and other key grammatical points in new contexts to ensure knowledge is secure. At key stage 4, the course is split up into the following six themes:

My personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future and travel and tourism

## **Assessment**

At the end of Year 11, you will sit the following four examinations:

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in Spanish (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 45 minutes including 5 minutes reading time
- Higher tier: 1 hour including 5 minutes reading time.

Paper 2: Speaking in Spanish (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 7–9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time.
- Higher tier: 10–12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time.

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes.

Paper 4: Writing in Spanish (25% of final grade)

- Foundation tier: 1 hour 10 minutes.
- Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes.

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

In order to be successful in this course you will need to develop your level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. In addition, you will need to develop the following transferable skills:

Cognitive skill - Systems thinking, decision making and reasoning.

Critical thinking - analysing, synthesising and reasoning skills.

Interpersonal skills - Communication – active listening, oral communication, written communication, assertive communication and non-verbal communication.

Adaptability – ability and willingness to cope with the unpredictable and communication styles and cultures.

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# GEOGRAPHY

**What is the qualification?** Geography GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (OCR)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

**Living in the UK Today:**

This component investigates the dynamic and diverse geography of the UK. It draws on a range of themes to explore the changing but distinctive physical and human environments, the processes which drive them and the challenges they create. Topics covered in this component are:

Landscapes of the UK, People of the UK and UK Environmental Challenges.

**The World Around Us:**

This component explores the complexities of the planet and the interconnections that take place. It draws on a range of themes to examine the changing, dynamic nature of physical and human environments, the role of decision makers and the sustainable nature and management of these environments. Topics covered include:

Ecosystems of the Planet, People of the Planet and Environmental threats to our Planet.

**Geographical Skills:**

Geographical skills are fundamental to the study and practice of geography. They are integrated into all aspects of the subject. Themes covered include: Geographical Skills and Fieldwork Assessment.

## **Assessment**

Living in the UK Today (01) – 1 hour written paper (30% of total GCSE);

The World Around Us (02) – 1 hour written paper (30% of total GCSE)

Geographical Skills (03) – 1 hour 30 minutes written paper (40% of total GCSE)

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

Literacy – to be able to ‘write like a geographer’, with concise language and good use of key terminology.

Organisation – to ensure that all deadlines are met and that you prepare well for assessments in lessons and formal examinations.

Cartographic skills – select, adapt and construct maps.

Graphical skills – effectively present and communicate data through graphs and charts, whilst developing the skill to extract, interpret, analyse and evaluate information.

Numerical and statistical skills – cross-curricular skills which can be adapted from mathematics.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

Geography is recognised as a subject which develops many key skills. It will be of benefit to you when applying to college and university as it shows that you have a good understanding of the world around you and possess a range of valuable skills. Geography is often considered as the link between the sciences and humanities and so works well for those following either route. Careers using geography include town planning, forestry, meteorology, construction work and waste management.



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# History

**What is the qualification?** History GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (AQA)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

### *Conflict and tension, 1918–1939*

This wider world depth study enables you to understand the complex and diverse interests of different individuals and states. It focuses on the causes of the Second World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the issues which caused it. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups as well as how they were affected and influenced by international relations.

### *Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship*

This period study focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship – the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism. You will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of these two developments and the role ideas played in influencing change. You will also look at the role of key individuals and groups and the impact the developments had on them.

### *Britain - Power and the people*

This thematic study will enable you to gain an understanding of the development of the relationship between the citizen and the state in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of protest to that relationship. By charting the journey from feudalism and serfdom to democracy and equality, it reveals how, in different periods, the state responds to challenges to its authority and the consequences. It allows you to construct an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of the citizen.

### *Elizabethan England, c.1568–1603*

This option allows you to study in depth a specified historical period, the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on some major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from the economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoint and arising controversies.

## **Assessment**

Year 11 summer term terminal examination

Paper 1 and 2 (2 hours each)

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You will need to select, organise and communicate historical knowledge and understanding. You will need to be able to examine and interpret a range of historical sources in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions. If you are motivated, enjoy history and are keen to develop your literacy and analytical skills you are likely to thrive in this subject.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

Careers using history include, archaeology, conservation and restoration, historian, museum/art curator, antique dealer and wardrobe costume designer.



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# Religious Studies

**What is the qualification?** Religious Studies GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (AQA)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

Paper one of the GCSE is the in depth study of two world religions: Christianity and Islam. You will be taught the beliefs and practices of the two faiths in relation to the sources of authority in each tradition, in addition to how individuals and communities in the United Kingdom express their beliefs.

In paper two of the GCSE, you will explore philosophical and ethical studies in relation to the religious traditions of the United Kingdom. This will include studying religious and secular responses to ultimate questions on topics such as abortion, euthanasia, marriage, divorce, 21st century conflict, crime, punishment and human rights.

## **Assessment:**

Two papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each at the end of year 11 summer term.

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You will be given the opportunity to develop your enthusiasm and interest for the study of religion and its relation to the wider world. You will be required to adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion. You will have the opportunity to develop your own values, opinions and attitudes about a range of current issues.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

The Religious Education course is highly valued by sixth form colleges and employers because you will study a wide range of topics that raise awareness of different religions, cultures and views. This qualification will support you in a number of professions particularly those involved in working with people including law, teaching, journalism, human resources, medicine, sociology and management.



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# Physical Education Core

## What will I be doing on the course?

You will take part in three hours of physical education every two weeks.

Our aspiration is that all students will develop independence, organisational skills and the ability to lead a variety of activities. You will be working towards delivering a festival to primary school children by creating and leading sports sessions.

Throughout the two years you will experience a range of sports which focus on different life skills such as communication, teamwork, social skills, resilience, mindfulness, time management and leadership.

Our curriculum will focus on sports that you may experience and enjoy when going into further education or work, such as football, badminton, tennis and netball.





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# Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

“PSHCE education is a school curriculum subject in England that helps children and young people stay healthy, safe and prepared for life – and work – in modern Britain.” PSHE Association (2022). PSHCE at King Edward VI Lordswood School for Girls makes a significant contribution to student’s social, moral, spiritual, and cultural (SMSC) development. It:

- Provides you with opportunities to reflect on your identity, clarify your own values and attitudes, and explore the complex and conflicting range of values and attitudes encountered now and in the future.
- Promotes spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of students– with a focus on British Values and Citizenship.
- Develops capacity to make informed decisions in relation to your wellbeing, both physical and mental.
- Develops understanding of social wellbeing: relationships between friends, family, and others – how to stay safe, express consent, and be able to communicate when you do not feel safe.
- Provides expert independent, up-to-date careers guidance that gives you the best information and opportunities available and helps you progress into further education, training, and employment.

Our PSHCE curriculum is based on five strands that are covered in all year groups via a spiral model where topics are repeated and taught in an age-appropriate manner:

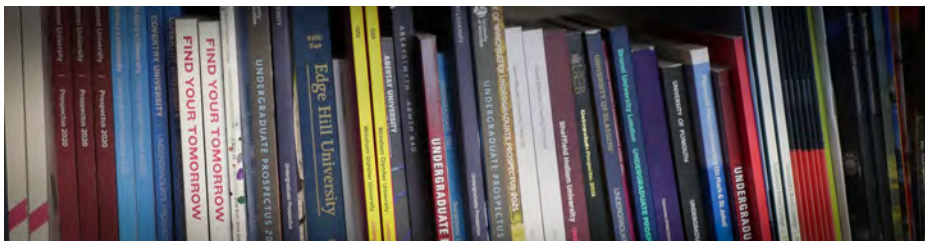
Strand A – Careers/Finances/Education

Strand B – Identity/Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Strand C – Mental and Physical Health

Strand D – Citizenship and Charity

Strand E – Risk and Safety



## **KING EDWARD VI LORDSWOOD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

# Careers

Good careers guidance widens your horizons, challenges stereotypes, and raises aspirations. Careers education at KEVI LSG is student-centred and whilst providing a broad range of experiences and knowledge, is also able to be targeted specifically at your interests and strengths.

The careers programme at LSG takes into account the 7 year continuum of learning and development from Year 7 - 13.

### Careers statement

Our purpose is to excite you about your future aspirations, to inform you of the range of opportunities available, and to provide the means to explore them. Good careers education provides you with the knowledge and skills necessary to make successful transitions to the next stages of your lives.

Careers education is shared in a variety of ways - including through the academic curriculum, PSHCE lessons, review tutor programme, Enrichment days, Values days, assemblies and trips.

### **Year 10**

#### **Creating experiences**

You are expected to complete work experience which will enable you to learn more about yourselves and working life, as well as develop many important skills in the process. You will be given an opportunity to have 1-1 and group interviews with a qualified careers advisor throughout the year. Students with additional needs will be supported by our careers team who will provide a number of interventions during this important time.

### **Year 11**

#### **Moving On**

All pupils in year 11 will have a 1-1 interview with a qualified careers advisor and data will be recorded for destination data returns. There will be opportunities to attend careers fairs, 'drop-in' lunchtime support sessions available to you throughout the year, as well as to further explore options and make applications during PSHCE and careers sessions.



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# **Option Subjects**



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# Art and Design

**What is the qualification?** Art and Design GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (AQA)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

This course allows students to explore and experiment with a wide range of art techniques and media. You will be given two project themes over the two years for which you will have to produce a sketchbook and final piece.

During the course, you will be shown how to draw and use printing techniques, paint, photography and digital media. You will then be able to choose which media or combination of media you wish to use to produce your final pieces. All of the work produced for these projects will be submitted in a portfolio which equates to 60% of the overall marks. In addition to this portfolio, you are also given a selection of questions/ themes that have been written by the examination board. You will have a set number of weeks to produce a sketchbook based on your chosen question/ theme and then a ten hour examination during which you will have to make the final piece. The examination unit will make up the other 40% of the overall grade.

## **Assessment**

The main deadlines are as follows;

Year 10 Spring term: project 1 deadline, to be assessed as part of Unit 1.

Year 11 end of Autumn term: Project 2 deadline, to be assessed as part of Unit 1.

Spring term: Examination paper (Unit 2; Externally set question) preparatory period plus 10 hour examination time. All units are internally assessed and a sample will be externally moderated.

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You need to be extremely creative and the more ideas you have the better. You also need to be willing to using techniques and media that you find more challenging or with which you are unfamiliar. We will teach you how to improve your drawing and making skills during lessons but you may be required to come to art clubs to practise any that you find particularly difficult or to complete work that cannot be taken home. You need to be able to manage your time well because artwork can be time consuming and require careful planning. You need to be able to research artists and designers using the internet, books and by going to exhibitions. You will also have to develop an analytical writing style and be able to show that you think carefully about imagery rather than take it at face value.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

This qualification will allow you to go on and study an art based course at Post 16 and it will also help you enhance your research skills, analytical skills, independent and creative thinking skills and time management skills – all of which are very useful whatever courses you go on to study. Careers in Art and Design include artist, illustrator, fashion photographer, teacher, graphic designer, animator and many more.



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# Business Studies

**What is the qualification?** Business Studies GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (OCR)

## What will I be doing on the course?

This course is a broad-based qualification providing an introduction to business. This qualification will encourage you to be inspired and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and to gain an insight into related sectors and various types of businesses in the UK and internationally. The GCSE will enable you to understand businesses around you, including your local high street; investing decisions they make in order to be successful. Business studies will prepare you to make informed decisions about your future goals and career choices.

## Assessment

Business 1: (Paper 1) Business activity, marketing and people (50% of total mark)

- Unit 1 Business activity
- Unit 2 Marketing
- Unit 3 People

Business 2: (Paper 2) Operations, finance and influences on business (50% of total mark)

- Unit 4 Operations
- Unit 5 Finance
- Unit 6 Influences on businesses
- Unit 7 The independent nature of business

## Assessment

In year 11

paper 1— 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2—1 hour 30 minutes

## What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?

It is important that students are reading local and national newspapers to help contextualise the theory they are learning and, applying their knowledge to real life situations, means that independent research is vital to success.

Mathematical calculations are also integral to the finance unit and students need to be confident in working out and analysing results.

This course involves lots of discussion and team work.

## What could I use this qualification for?

This qualification will allow you to go on and study a business based course at Post 16 and it will also help you enhance your research skills, analytical skills, independent and creative thinking skills and team building skills.

Careers in business include marketing, accountancy, human resource management, finance and business management. The subject also complements careers in IT and media.



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# Citizenship

**What is the qualification?** Citizenship GCSE awarded at grades 1–9 (OCR)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

Citizenship Studies will enable you to deepen your knowledge of democracy and government, the law, rights and responsibilities and how we live together in society. You will therefore acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills to take responsible citizenship actions, play a positive role in public and democratic life as informed and active citizens, and acquire the basis for further learning and study.

### **Unit 1: Our rights, responsibilities and the law**

This unit encourages you to investigate the origins of our rights, the ways in which human rights have been extended and safeguarded, and the difficulties that occur when different rights conflict. You have the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding of rights and responsibilities to explore the nature of laws and rules, and the ways in which the law is administered and enforced.

### **Unit 2: Citizenship in Action**

All learners completing the qualification should participate in action in a real out-of-classroom context. Citizenship actions should be carefully planned practical activities that address a citizenship issue or question of concern. You should aim to deliver a benefit or change for a particular community or wider society.

### **Unit 3: Our society and our links with the wider world**

This unit encourages you to explore your own sense of identity and that of other UK citizens in our increasingly complex society. You consider the importance of tolerance and respect for diversity as well as ways to promote greater community cohesion.

## **Assessment**

All examinations will take place at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Citizenship in perspective, 50 marks, 50 minutes.

Paper 2: Citizenship in action, 100 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 3: Our rights, our society 50 marks, 1 hour.

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You will need to think critically, evaluate evidence, debate ideas, make persuasive arguments and justify your conclusions. If you are motivated and enjoy citizenship, are engaged in current affairs and stay up to date then you are likely to thrive in this subject.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

Citizenship is excellent preparation for A levels in the humanities and the social sciences e.g. sociology, government and politics or law. If you choose to follow a more scientific route, citizenship is ideal evidence for universities and future employers of your literacy, analytical skills and understanding of the world around you.



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# Computer Science

**What is the qualification?** Computer Science GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (OCR)

## **What will I be doing on this course?**

GCSE Computer Science consists of two units:

- 01 - Computer Systems
- 02 - Computational Thinking.

In this course you will study Algorithms and Programming. For each of these units you will sit an examination at the end of Year 11.

## **Computer Systems Paper 1**

- 1.1 Systems Architecture
- 1.2 Memory Storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections & protocol
- 1.4 Network Security
- 1.5 System Software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural, & environmental impacts of digital technology

## **Computational thinking, algorithms & programming Paper 2**

- 2.1 Algorithm
- 2.2 Programming Fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing Robust Program
- 2.4 Boolean Logic
- 2.5 Programming language & IDE

## **Assessment**

Two 1hour 30 minutes examinations in Year 11

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

Problem solving, independence and time management are just some skills. You will build on your knowledge from Key Stage 3.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

Computer Science will help you develop a range of skills which can help you in the career of your choice. Some of these skills are problem solving, decomposition, abstraction, understanding how computers operate and how networks transmit data. In addition to this you will also develop your programming skills.

Careers you could use this for :

Programming engineer, Data scientist, Software tester, Web developer, Systems analyst, Business analyst, Product manager, Network architect, Software engineer, Technical support, Game developer and cyber security.



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# Creative iMedia

**What is the qualification?** Cambridge Nationals (OCR) Level 1/Level 2 in Creative iMedia

## **What will I be doing on the course? How will it be structured?**

You will design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements. You will apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations. You will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- developing visual identities for clients
- planning and creating original digital graphics
- planning, creating and reviewing original digital media products.

## **Assessment**

There are two mandatory units.

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry - This is assessed by taking an exam. You will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences.

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics - This is assessed by completing a set assignment. You will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences.

The optional unit:

Unit R097: Interactive digital media - This is assessed by completing a set assignment. You will learn how to plan, create and review interactive digital media products.

## **What skills will need to be developed to be successful at this course?**

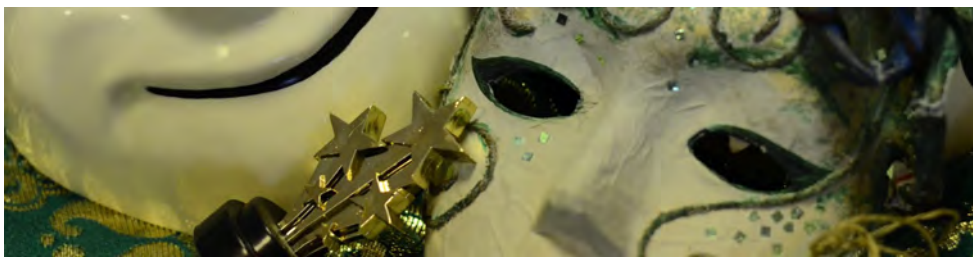
You will need to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

Careers in this subject include:

Production assistant, video editor, social media specialist, social media manager, film maker, digital artist, producer, sound engineer and video game designer.





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# Drama

**What is the qualification?** Drama GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (Eduqas)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

**Component 1:** Devising Theatre. You will explore a range of performance genres, design concepts (costume/makeup/set) and create an original performance or design and create a set or costume from a stimulus set by the exam board. This is worth 40% of the final grade.

**Component 2:** Performing from a text. You will perform two extracts of a play of your choice to a visiting Eduqas examiner or design and create a set or costume for the performers. This is worth 20% of the qualification.

**Component 3:** Interpreting Theatre. You will study a complete play through practical application and watch a live performance and analyse these during a written examination. This is worth 40% of the mark.

You will visit a range of live performances across the country, watch touring theatre companies and explore a wide range of theatre genres including physical theatre, naturalism and surrealism to aid your exam work. You will work both individually and in groups and you will be able to tailor the course to your own strengths and preference.

## **Assessment**

60% performance and exploration.

**Component 1:** (non-exam assessment): There will be opportunities for you to perform to your teacher. These devised pieces will be internally assessed by your teacher and then externally moderated. During these explorations, you will be awarded marks for your collaboration, supporting notes, and the final performance of the piece. You can choose between designer and actor roles.

**Component 2:** (non-exam assessment): The performance of an extract from a play will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner. You can choose between designer and actor roles.

**Component 3:** You will answer questions on a set text studied and a live performance seen.

40% written examination, 1 hour and 30 minutes.

## **What skills do I need to be successful at this course?**

To be successful in drama you must develop your creativity, communication and teamwork skills as all of the units will involve group work and collaboration. You will also develop your design, improvisation and acting skills, alongside leadership skills. A real sense of collaborative spirit is an asset. You will be expected to meet deadlines in order to be successful.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

This course gives you a good basis for further study of drama in either A Level Drama and Theatre Studies or Level 3 Performing Arts courses. It would also support applications for art, photography, fashion and design, English, law, marketing, psychology and sociology. In addition it will develop your level of confidence, soft skills social skills and help with future college and job interviews as well as any career that works with people and communities.



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# Health And Social Care

**What is the qualification?** BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care (Pearson)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

**Component 1:** Human Lifespan Development. You will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. You will explore the different events that can impact an individual's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events.

**Component 2:** Health and Social Care Services and Values. You will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. You will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

**Component 3:** Health and Wellbeing. You will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

## **Assessment**

Year 10 Component 1- Internal assessment PSA February - April

Year 11 Component 2—Internal assessment PSA October - December

Year 11 Component 3— External examination May

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

To be successful in health and social care you need to have a passion and interest in people, the world of health and how we develop. You will be organised and have a neat book filled with information and knowledge gained in class to support you in your controlled assessments. You will be able to work well independently and in groups to develop your understanding and to apply your knowledge to real life case studies.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

If you achieve A Level 2 pass (equivalent to a GCSE grade 4) or better it is then possible to progress on to Level 3 qualifications such as Child Development, Health and Social Care in Education and Childcare or the Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care. It could help you to enter the apprenticeships and traineeship routes in Child Care, Social Care work or work in the health sector. You will also be able to use the transferable skills such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving in other areas of study.



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# Hospitality and Catering

**What is the qualification?** Hospitality and catering Level 1/2 vocational award in (VJEC)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

In Year 10, you will take part in practical cooking activities to practise, hone and learn new high level cooking skills which will feed into unit 2. Alongside this you will study the content for the written examination;

**Unit 1-** The hospitality and catering industry - includes learning about the vocational sector and applying this to a set scenario where you consider hospitality and catering provision for specific locations. You will also look at how establishments operate efficiently, legally and financially whilst meeting the needs of their clients .

**Unit 2-** Hospitality and catering in action - (non-practical element). The content will cover the nutritional needs of different groups of people and their selection of appropriate dishes for them, a variety of factors affecting menu decisions and how to produce an effective time plan when preparing more than one dish. You will also learn to evaluate the dishes you have made and your own performance.

## **Assessment**

The qualification is made up of two units.

Year 11 unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry. You will study the externally assessed examination content throughout the course and will sit the examination in January of year 11. The examination is 90 minutes in length and accounts for 40% of the qualification.

Year 11 unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action. This is a 12 hour controlled assessment. You will study content for the internally assessed unit throughout year 10 and will sit the controlled assessment in the autumn term of year 11. This will involve both practical and written work.

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You should have an interest in making food products and the hospitality and catering industry in general. You must also have an open mind towards food and be willing to experiment with new and different ingredients. You will continue to develop a range of food preparation and cooking techniques as well as developing your knowledge of nutrition and the hospitality and catering sector.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

Career paths include: food technology, food science, the health sector, teaching, nutrition, dietetics, environmental health and hotel/restaurant management.



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# Music

**What is the qualification?** Music GCSE 9-1 J536 (OCR)

## **What will I be doing be on the course?**

GCSE in music provides an accessible and creative musical education, integrating the three main components : performing, composing and appraising. You will broaden your musical horizons within five areas of study as you explore musical context, language, performance and composition.

There are five areas of study:

- ◆ Area of study 1: My music
- ◆ Area of study 2: The concerto through time
- ◆ Area of study 3: Rhythms of the world
- ◆ Area of study 4: Film music
- ◆ Area of study 5: Conventions of pop

**Component 01/02: Integrated portfolio (30%)**

You develop your understanding of performance and composition through exploration of your own instrument within styles and genres of your choosing.

**Component 03/04: Practical component**

You will develop your skills and understanding of performance and composition. The focus of the performance aspect of this component is on the demands of performing with an ensemble. You are also required to compose a piece of music appropriate for one of the areas of study in response to a set brief.

**Component 05: Listening and appraising**

This component focuses on areas of study 2, 3, 4, and 5. You will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language.

## **Assessment**

60% coursework comprising 30% performance and 30% composition

40% external exam (Listening and Appraising) 1hr30mins

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

Performance assessment can be taken on any instrument, including voice and ICT. Composition may be live or ICT based. A desire to explore music in depth and understand developments over time is essential. Previous experience in instrumental skills, performance or creating music is helpful but the course is designed to be accessible to all including students who have experienced music in the classroom only.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

First and foremost the course will make you a better and more confident musician and listener. The GCSE provides opportunity to progress onto other music related courses such as A level Music, vocational qualifications in performance, production and programming, degrees in such varied areas as performance, acoustics or sound design and a glorious array of careers in the music profession like music composer, music therapist, instrumentalist, music journalist and record producer.



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# Photography

**What is the qualification?** Photography GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (AQA)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

This course allows you to explore and experiment with a wide range of photographic techniques and digital media. You will be given two coursework project themes over the two years for which you will have to produce a portfolio and final piece. During the course you will be shown how to use digital cameras, different lens settings, studio lighting, the darkroom and computer software including Photoshop. You will then be able to choose which method or combination of methods you use to produce your final pieces. All of the work you produce for these projects will be submitted in a coursework portfolio which equates to 60% of your overall mark. In addition to this portfolio, you are also given a selection of questions/ themes that have been written by the examination board. You will have a set number of weeks to produce a portfolio based on your chosen question/ theme and then a ten hour examination during which you will have to make the final piece. The examination unit will make up the other 40% of your overall grade.

## **Assessment**

Year 10 Spring term; Project 1 & 2 to be assessed as part of Unit 1

Year 11 Autumn Term

Project 3 to be assessed as part of Unit 1

Year 11 Spring Term

Examination paper (Unit 2) preparatory period plus 10 hour examination time

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

You need to be extremely creative and the more ideas you have the better. You also need to be willing to try using techniques and media that you find more challenging or with which you are unfamiliar. We will teach you how to improve your photographic skills during lessons but you may be required to come after school to practise using the darkroom. You will be taught how to use digital cameras and Photoshop software on the PCs. This is something that you will need to become confident using by practising. You need to be able to manage your time well because photography can be time consuming and requires careful planning. You need to be able to research artists and designers using the internet, books and by going to exhibitions. You will also have to develop an analytical writing style and be able to show that you think carefully about imagery rather than take it at face value.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

This qualification will allow you to go on and study an art based course at Post 16. It will also help you enhance your research skills, analytical skills, independent and creative thinking skills and time management skills – all of which are very useful whatever courses you go on to study. Careers in photography include: fashion photographer, wedding photographer, teacher, graphic designer, forensic photographer and many more.



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# Physical Education

**What is the qualification?** Physical Education GCSE awarded at grades 9 – 1 (Edexcel)

## **What will I be doing on the course?**

- Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems
- Component 2: Health and Performance
- You have to perform in 3 sports. It is strongly recommended that you participate in outside clubs to practice your skills.
- Coursework. You will create a 6 week improvement plan of a component of fitness. You will then carry out the fitness plan during the summer holidays and write a 1500 word evaluation.
- 25% of the lessons will be dedicated to physical fitness/ skill development in an area of sport.

## **Assessment**

Paper 1- 1hr 30 minutes

Paper 2- 1hr 15 minutes

Practical moderation day

Coursework deadline– Year 11 autumn term

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

If you play for a team or are a member of an extracurricular club outside school, this will aid the progress you make on this course. It is important that you are developing your physical skills in sports outside of school and enjoy learning about how the body works when participating in physical activity. You must be committed to attending extracurricular clubs and be passionate and enthusiastic about sports.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

This course will enable you to follow A level Physical Education and will complement a range of other A level subjects, including biology and psychology due to the scientific content of the course. GCSE PE is a good foundation for a career in sports and physical education, as well as a wide range of others, including physiotherapy, sports business, personal trainer, physical therapy, sports psychology and nutrition.

The health and fitness industry is one of the fastest growing internationally so the GCSE PE course would be an exciting choice in a fast developing society.



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# Separate Science

## **What is the qualification?**

The GCSE separate science course leads to three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. 9 - 1 (AQA)

## **What will I be doing on the course? How will it be structured?**

You will study the same topics as those students studying the GCSE combined science courses, however, as separate science students, each topic will be covered in more detail. There will be required practicals you will need to carry out, and whilst there are no controlled assessment components, you may be asked about the practical work in your final examinations. You will be taught by three science teachers and have separate lessons for biology, chemistry and physics. There are 7 units of work in biology, 10 in chemistry, and 8 in physics.

*Biology*—A mixture of human and plant biology topics are covered over the two years with 10 required practicals assessed throughout the course.

*Chemistry* - A mixture of physical, earth, organic and analytical chemistry topics are covered over the two years with 8 required practical's assessed throughout the course.

*Physics* - A mixture of topics relating to everyday life such as forces and motion, electricity and electromagnetic waves. You will need to carry out 10 required practicals.

## **Assessment**

The course is assessed by 100% terminal examination and you will sit two 1 hour 45 minute examinations per science at the end of Year 11 (6 papers in total).

## **What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?**

To be successful in the separate sciences you have to be dedicated and have a real interest and enthusiasm for science. You will develop your scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines. This will also enable you to understand the nature, processes and methods of science through different scientific enquires enabling you to develop you observational, practical, modelling, enquiry, and problem solving skills. You must have good mathematical skills and an ability to analyse and evaluate data and draw accurate conclusions. You will need to be able to apply your knowledge to novel situations.

## **What could I use this qualification for?**

You could use this qualification to study any of the sciences or psychology at A level. Good GCSE science grades are essential for many university courses. Careers include medicine, dentistry, lab technician, engineering, toxicologist, forensic scientist, academic researcher, software engineer.



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### Guidance on completing your options form

The core subjects: English, English Literature, mathematics, science, religious studies, French or Spanish, Geography or history, PSHCE and physical education will be followed by all students. You must choose a humanities option- geography or history.

You will be choosing **one** subject from each of the option blocks. For option 1 and 2, you will also need to select a reserve option, **which must not be the same as your first choice**. If art, business studies or health and social care is selected as the first option in block 1, they cannot be the first option for block 2. Whilst every effort to enable all students to study their first choice subjects is made, at times this may not be possible. In the event of significant issues in this regard, students and parents/carers will be consulted before allocation of subjects.

### Options Block

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Humanities option | Geography<br>History  |
| Option 1          | Art<br>Business<br>Citizenship<br>Computer Science<br>Health & Social Care<br>Hospitality & catering<br>Music<br>PE |
| Option 2          | Art<br>Business<br>Creative iMedia<br>Drama<br>Health & Social Care<br>Photography<br>Separate science              |

Please be aware there needs to be a minimum of 15 students for a course to run and there is also an upper limit for some subjects. Before making your choices, read the subject information carefully and speak to your subject teachers, review tutors and parents/carers. Once options have been confirmed, there will be no opportunity to make any changes. A copy of the option form will be emailed to your school account and will also be available here. This will need to be completed fully and your parents/carers must sign and date it to ensure they are aware of your choices. The completed form needs to be returned to student reception by **Friday 7th February 2025**.



# Key stage 4 options 2025-27



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## Option form

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Review Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Option Choices

Please complete the table below by ticking the choice of GCSE humanities subject:

| Humanities option | GCSE humanities option (tick one) |                          |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                   | Geography                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| History           | <input type="checkbox"/>          |                          |

Please complete the table below by ticking **one** first choice and a reserve choice for each option block:-

|                 |                        | First choice (tick one)  | Reserve choice (tick one) |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Option 1</b> | Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Business Studies       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Citizenship            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Computer Science       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Health & Social Care   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Hospitality & Catering | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | PE                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |

|                 |                      | First choice (tick one)  | Reserve choice (tick one) |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Option 2</b> | Art                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Business Studies     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Creative iMedia      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Drama                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Health & Social Care | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Photography          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
|                 | Separate Science     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  |

I confirm I am happy with the choices made and understand once they have been confirmed, they cannot be changed.

Signed (student): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (parent/carer): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/carer name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Mrs Verma via the student reception by Friday 7th February 2025.